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AMD

**The Patent Office
Patents Directorate**

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Your Reference: P013723GB AMD
Application No: GB 0218241.8

24 February 2003

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17(5)

I enclose two copies of my search report and a copy of the citations.

Plurality of invention

I consider that your application relates to more than one invention as follows:

A. The composition, methods of preparation, products and uses of said composition of claims 1-24, 29-33

and

B. The process for producing an EPS or an enzyme of claims 25-28. Although these claims are dependent upon the preceding claims, since these claims relate to the composition, its preparation and uses etc, unity of invention is not considered to exist.

My search report relates to the first invention only. If you want the other invention searched, you should file a further Patents Form 9/77.

Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **30 December 2003**. You will then receive a letter informing you of completion and telling you the publication number and date of

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Application No: GB 0218241.8

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publication.

Amendment/withdrawal

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application, or to withdraw the application to prevent publication, you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. **No reminder will be issued.** If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before the above completion date, please mark your letter prominently: **"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT"**.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Patrick Purcell'.

Dr Patrick Purcell
Examiner



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Application No: GB 0218241.8
Claims searched: 1-24, 29-33

Examiner: Dr Patrick Purcell
Date of search: 24 February 2003

Patents Act 1977 : Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
X	1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 14-20, 23, 24, 29, 31-33	WO 02/37984 A1 (CEBA AB) see page 6, line 30-page 7, line 23 and Examples 1-5
X	1, at least	EP 0957170 A1 (SOCIETE DES PRODUITS NESTLE S.A.) see WPI abstract accession no: 2000-013255
X	1, at least	EP 0790003 A1 (PURATOS N.V.) see page 3, line 54-page 4, line 10, page 1, line 51-page 11, line 11
X	1, at least	US 5565342 (YONETA ET AL), see whole document, esp. column 2, line 46-column 5, line 25, column 14, lines 21-26
A		Carbohydrate Research, Vol. 239, 1993, M Gruter et al, "Structural characterization of the exopolysaccharide produced by <i>Lactobacillus delbruckii</i> subspecies bulgaricus rr grown in skimmed milk", 209-226

Categories:

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC^v:

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC⁷:

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report:

ONLINE: EPODOC, WPI, JAPIO, BIOSIS, MEDLINE